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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0109  
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAHINGEN GE  
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

Wednesday, 29 July 2009, 13:51

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BELGRADE 000765  
SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO USOFFICE ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
EO 12958 DECL: 2019/07/29

TAGS ECON, PREL, SR, MARR, PGOV

SUBJECT: SERBIA IN THE WAKE OF VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN'S VISIT

REF: A) BELGRADE 725 B) BELGRADE743

CLASSIFIED BY: Jennifer Brush, Charge, US Department of State, US Embassy Belgrade; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

Summary

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11. (C) Vice President Biden's May 20 visit to Belgrade, during which he met with President Tadic, Prime Minister Cvetkovic, and Defense Minister  
Euro-Atlantic Integration

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12. (C) The Vice President's message that the United States wanted Serbia to consider joining NATO, but would not push it to do so given the late  
13. (C) It is also in our interest to find new ways to support Serbia's aspirations to join the European Union, in that integration is the sure  
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Regional Relations

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14. (C) The Vice President's clear statement during his visit that the United States is not asking Serbia to recognize Kosovo helped defuse tensions  
15. (C) We are not seeing a sufficiently constructive approach from the Serbian government on decentralization and the ICO-led plan to create free  
Economic Development

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16. (C) During his meeting with Prime Minister Cvetkovic, Vice President Biden praised the Serbian government's efforts to minimize the impact  
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17. (C) Serbia continues to face a tough road toward economic development. While it continues to make progress toward WTO, accession is not expected  
Bilateral Relationship

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18. (C) President Obama's election generated enormous goodwill in Serbia, and people here believe that the new Administration is taking a more  
19. (C) Visas are a central issue in Serbia's relations with its Western partners, and the United States is no exception. Serbian citizens long  
Comment

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10. (C) Although the current Serbian government is democratic and  
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pro-European, it is also frequently unfocused and politically timid. Our challenge is to make it clear that Vice President Biden's visit wasn't  
BRUSH BRUSH